THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

BENGALURU • SUNDAY • OCTOBER 18, 2020 • ₹8.00 • PAGES 28 • LATE CITY EDITION

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TRUMP SAYS HE MAY LEAVE U.S. IF HE LOSES TO BIDEN

The US President said on Friday night he cannot imagine the prospect of losing the Nov 3 election to Democrat Joe Biden

DON TRAILS HIM IN MOST ELECTION SURVEYS

Addressing his supporters at a campaign rally in Georgia, he said, "Can you imagine if I lose, my whole life, what am I going to do? I am going to say I lost to the worst candidate in history?" Donald Trump has so far refused to guarantee that he will accept a defeat in the election. At present, he is trailing behind Biden in most surveys, even in states that he won in 2016

LANDSLIDE VICTORY FOR NZ'S POPULAR PM

- Meanwhile, in New Zealand, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's party won a landslide victory in Saturday's general election
- The Centre-Left Labour Party won 64 seats in the 120-strong House
- It's for the first time any political party is winning an absolute majority in New Zealand's parliament since 1996 | P12

40-YR-OLD

ARDERN'S HANDLING OF THE PANDEMIC HAD WON HER WIDESPREAD PRAISE

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Sputnik V gets nod for clinical trials

Dr Reddy's to conduct phase 2, 3 trials; Modi calls for effective vaccine delivery system

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

RUSSIA's Sputnik V has become the fourth Covid-19 vaccine candidate in India to receive regulatory permission for human trials.

The vaccine's promoter Russian Direct Investment Fund and Hyderabad-based Dr Reddy's Laboratories on Saturday said they have been granted approval from the Drug Control General of India to conduct phase 2 and 3 human clinical trials in the country.

It will be a multi-centre and randomised controlled study, though details of the number of volunteers and sites involved in the trial are not known.

Earlier this month, the Covid-19 subject expert committee of the Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation had rejected the two firms' proposal to conduct phase 3 trial saying the sample size was "small".

The regulator had then directed Dr Reddy's to submit a revised proposal for the phase-2 and -3 trial in the country.

Sputnik V is currently undergoing phase 3 clinical trials in Russia and the proposed number of subjects is 40,000. Additionally, a phase 3 clinical trial of the vaccine commenced in the UAE last week.

In India, three vaccine candidates, one each by Bharat Biotech, Zydus Cadila and Oxford University (for which Serum Institute of India is a production and distribution partner) are already under advanced stages of human trials.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday suggested developing a vaccine delivery system on the lines of conduct of polls and disaster management while involving all levels of government and citizen groups.

Chairing a meeting to review the pandemic situation and the preparedness of vaccine delivery, the PM also cautioned against any complacency in the fight against the virus and called for ramping up efforts to contain the pandemic. P9

SUBDUED DASARA OFF TO A START

Cultural programmes, as part of the Dasara festivities, kicked off in the forecourt of the Mysuru palace on Saturday with all Covid-19 precautions, including limited gatherings to ensure social distancing. Pandit Vinayaka Toravi (seated) was conferred with the Rajya Sangeetha Vidwan award by Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri. Earlier in the day, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa offered prayers at Chamundi Hills at the start of the festivities | UDAYSHANKAR S | P4

Army aids rescue in flood-hit K'buragi

RAMKRISHNA BADSESHI
@ Kalaburagi

WITH the flood situation in Kalaburagi district turning grim, especially in Afzalpur and Jewargi taluks, the Army has been called in to help with the evacuation of people residing in low-lying areas along the Bhima river. Over eight lakh cusecs of water has been released into the Bhima river from the Ujani and Veer dams in Maharashtra on Saturday, resulting in flooding.

₹10K CR LOSS TO STATE

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Saturday stated that the state suffered losses of ₹9,952 crore in the August-September rain, which damaged 10.7 lakh hectares of crop. He added that relief work will be taken up as per NDRF norms. P4

Bhima river water has entered the holy shrine of Deval Ganagapur in Afzalpur taluk, where the Dattatreya temple is situated and attracts a large number of devotees from Maharashtra, Telangana and Karnataka.

A company of Armymen, comprising 100 personnel and led by Major Martin Aravind, arrived from Secunderabad on Saturday evening and was received by Kalaburagi Additional Deputy Commissioner Shankar Vanikyal at the district border. The company was immediately split into two teams and sent to flood-affected villages of Afzalpur and Jewargi taluks.

CONTINUED ON: P4

Grounded Jet Airways finally gets a buyer

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

NEARLY one-and-a-half years after it shut shop and was admitted under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, Jet Airways has finally found a buyer. Kalrock Capital and Murari Lal Jalan are the new owners of the airline.

Murari Lal Jalan is a businessman with interests in diverse sectors from real estate to mining. Besides India, his investments are in the UAE, Russia and Uzbekistan.

Kalrock Capital, founded by European entrepreneur Florian Fritsch, is a global firm operating in financial advisory and alternative asset management.

Experts feel joblessness in the aviation sector due to the pandemic and poor financial health of aircraft lessors will help the new owners cut costs. For passengers, the resumption of Jet's services will mean competitive fares and more options on international routes.

CONTINUED ON: P13

INTERVIEW

'NITISH KUMAR TO BE BIHAR CM IF NDA WINS'

Bihar's Deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi tells TNIE that party ally and JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar will continue to be the chief minister of Bihar even if the BJP wins more seats than the JD(U) in the upcoming Assembly elections

SUSHIL KUMAR MODI
Deputy Chief Minister, Bihar Q&A: P10

'CJI MUST LOOK INTO JAGAN'S CHARGES'

Chief Justice of India S A Bobde should set up a mechanism to deal with questions raised against the personal conduct of judges, says senior Supreme Court advocate Dushyant Dave

DUSHYANT DAVE
Senior advocate, Apex Court Q&A: P9

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